United Nations S/2015/198

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 April 2015
English
Original: French

Letter dated 20 March 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 6 March 2015 from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Ms. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, in which she conveys the communiqués of the 484th and 489th meetings of the African Union Peace and Security Council on Boko Haram, held on 29 January and 3 March 2015, respectively (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

15-04547 (E) 060415 100415

Please recycle

Annex

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي

UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

[Language: English]

BC/U/319/02.15

Addis Ababa, 6 March 2015

Excellency,

I am writing to you with respect to the threat posed by the Boko Haram terrorist group and the regional and international efforts being deployed to address it.

Given the seriousness of the threat and the impact of Boko Haram activities, the African Union (AU), both through the Peace and Security Council (PSC) and the Commission, is actively seized of the matter. At its meeting held in Addis Ababa on 29 January 2015, the PSC, in support of the efforts of the Member States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and Benin, authorized the deployment of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), specifying the mandate and the tasks to be undertaken. The PSC also requested the Commission, working with the countries of the region, and with the support of the international partners, including the United Nations, to facilitate the early finalization of the Concept of Operations and other related documents for the MNJTF. The communiqué of the 29 January 2015 meeting is herewith attached.

It is against this background that a meeting of experts was organized in Yaoundé, in early February 2015, resulting in the adoption of the Strategic CONOPS of the MNJTF. Another meeting was convened in Ndjamena towards the end of February 2015, which developed the operational-level CONOPS and other relevant documents. I would like, on behalf of the AU and the countries of the region, to express our utmost gratitude to the United Nations, as well as to the other concerned partners, for their invaluable support and technical contribution in both exercises.

On 3 March 2015, the PSC endorsed the Strategic CONOPS. It urged the UN Security Council to urgently adopt, under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, a resolution that would: (i) endorse the deployment of the MNJTF; (ii) enable the provision of sustainable, flexible and predictable support to the MNJTF, including through innovative support mechanisms, drawing lessons from previous and present experiences regarding AU-led operations; and (iii) call for the provision of additional bilateral and multilateral voluntary support to the MNJTF and other related efforts, including quick impact projects, rehabilitation of affected communities and areas, early recovery, socio-economic development and peace building. Both the Strategic CONOPS and the PSC communiqué of 3 March 2015 are herewith attached.

H.E. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

7 AFRICA 3063 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, P.O. Box 3243, Tel. (251 11) 551 7700, Fax (251 11) 551 7844

As stressed by the PSC in its various pronouncements on the situation, the untold and widespread atrocities and wanton destruction of property and infrastructure by the Boko Haram terrorist group need to be urgently brought to an end. They pose a serious threat to the overall stability of the region and the continent as whole. The AU and its Member States deeply appreciate you continued concern and that of the UN Security Council, as well as your expression of support to, and solidarity with, the countries of the region

Over the past months, the LCBC Member States and Benin have taken a number of steps to promote and implement a coordinated and effective regional response to the threat posed by the Boko Haram terrorist group. Encouragingly, notable successes have been recorded on the ground recently, with the recovery of several localities, once seized by Boko Haram, by the armed forces of the countries of the region.

The efforts of the countries of the region need to be fully supported. The seriousness of the threat is such that we have to act with the required urgency. Accordingly, we look forward to the concrete steps that the Security Council will take in response to the request made by the PSC, bearing in mind that support by the UN to the AU in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security is an integral part of collective security as provided for in the United Nations Charter.

Obviously, in addition to the much-needed military and security operations against the Boko Haram terrorist group, there is need for longer term efforts to sustainably meet the challenges at hand. These relate to the improvement of livelihoods, education and job creation, as well as the protection of human rights, including those of women and girls, and the promotion of justice and reconciliation. The support of the Security Council and the larger UN family is also critical in this respect.

I would highly appreciate your assistance in circulating this letter and the attached documents to the members of the UN Security Council for their information and action as necessary.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

UNION COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma (Dr.)

AFRICA 2063
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, P.O. Box 3243, Tel: (251-11) 5513 822, Fax: (251-11) 5519

Enclosure I

[Language: French]

UNION AFRICAINE
الاتحاد الأفريقي

UNION AFRICAINE
UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Abéba, Éthiopie B.P. 3243, Tél. : (251-11) 551 38 22 Télécopie: (251-11) 519321
Courriel: situationroom@africa-union.org

CONSEIL DE PAIX ET DE SÉCURITÉ
484ÈME RÉUNION AU NIVEAU DES
CHEFS D'ÉTAT ET DE GOUVERNEMENT

LE 29 JANVIER 2015
ADDIS ABÉBA, ÉTHIOPIE

PSC/AHG/COMM.2 (CDLXXXIV)

COMMUNIQUÉ

COMMUNIQUÉ

Le Conseil de paix et de sécurité de l'Union africaine (UA), en sa 484ème réunion tenue le 29 Janvier 2015, au niveau des chefs d'État et de Gouvernement, a adopté la décision qui suit sur les efforts régionaux et internationaux et la voie à suivre dans la lutte contre le groupe terroriste Boko Haram:

Le Conseil,

1. **Prend note** du rapport de la Présidente de la Commission sur les efforts régionaux et internationaux et la voie à suivre dans la lutte contre le groupe terroriste Boko Haram [PSC/AHG/2(CDLXXIV)], ainsi que des déclarations faites par les représentants des États membres de la Commission du Bassin du Lac Tchad – CBLT (Cameroun, Niger, Nigéria et Tchad) et par le Ghana, en sa qualité de pays assurant la Présidence de la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO);

2. **Rappelle** ses décisions antérieures sur les activités de Boko Haram et les efforts à entreprendre pour neutraliser ce groupe terroriste, y compris le communiqué PSC/PR/COMM/2. (CDXXXVI), les dispositions pertinentes du communiqué PSC/AHG/COMM.(CDLV) et le communiqué PSC /PR/COMM. (CDLXIX), adoptés lors de ses 436ème, 455ème et 469ème réunions tenues, respectivement, le 23 mai, le 2 septembre et le 25 novembre 2014. Le Conseil **rappelle également** les dispositions pertinentes de la décision Assembly/AU/Dec. 356 (XXIII) adoptée par la Conférence de l'Union, en sa 23ème session ordinaire, tenue à Malabo (Guinée équatoriale), du 27 au 28 juin 2014;

3. **Réitère la ferme condamnation** par l'UA des attaques terroristes horribles commises par Boko Haram, y compris les massacres de civils, les enlèvements, les prises d'otages, les actes de pillage et la destruction de biens, la violence sexuelle et sexiste et d'autres exactions. À cet égard, le Conseil **note avec une profonde préoccupation** la récente escalade dans les attaques menées par Boko Haram, notamment les massacres commis à Baga, dans l'État de Borno, qui pourraient constituer un crime contre l'humanité, ainsi que les attentats-suicides à Maiduguri, dans l'État de Borno, et Potiskum, dans l'État de Yobe, perpétrés les 10 et 11 janvier 2015, et qui auraient impliqué des enfants contraints par Boko Haram de servir de kamikazes;

4. **Note en outre avec une profonde préoccupation** que les attaques et autres exactions commises par Boko Haram ont provoqué des déplacements internes massifs, ainsi que d'importants flux de populations des États de Borno, de Yobe et de l'Adamawa, au Nigéria, vers le Cameroun, le Niger et le Tchad, exerçant ainsi une pression supplémentaire sur les ressources dans les pays hôtes, avec des risques de tension entre les réfugiés et les communautés d'accueil;

5. **Renouvelle la solidarité** de l'UA avec les Gouvernements et peuples du Nigéria et des autres pays directement affectés par les activités du groupe terroriste Boko Haram. Le

Conseil **exprime sa profonde sympathie** avec les familles des victimes des actes criminels et terroristes de Boko Haram, ainsi qu'avec les familles des blessés;

6. **Réaffirme** que les activités du groupe terroriste Boko Haram constituent une grave menace non seulement pour le Nigeria et la région, mais également pour l'ensemble du continent. En conséquence, le Conseil **souligne** que l'Afrique dans son ensemble a le devoir et l'obligation d'apporter tout le soutien nécessaire aux États membres de la CBLT et au Bénin, conformément aux principes de solidarité africaine et d'indivisibilité de la paix et de la sécurité sur le continent, tels que consacrés dans les instruments pertinents de l'UA, y compris le Protocole relatif à la création du Conseil de paix et de sécurité de 2002, la Politique africaine commune de défense et de sécurité de février 2003 et le Pacte de non-agression et de défense commune de l'UA de mars 2005;

7. **Félicite encore une fois** les États membres de la CBLT et le Bénin pour les efforts soutenus qu'ils déploient en vue de renforcer l'efficacité de leur action contre le groupe terroriste Boko Haram, et **se réjouit,** à cet égard, des conclusions de la 5ème réunion ministérielle des pays de la région tenue à Niamey, au Niger, le 20 janvier 2015, dans le prolongement des résultats de leurs rencontres antérieures, y compris les réunions ministérielles qui ont eu lieu à Abuja, au Nigéria, le 3 septembre et le 13 octobre 2014, et le Sommet tenu à Niamey, le 7 octobre 2014. Le Conseil au Nigéria **note avec satisfaction** les mesures pratiques convenues lors de la réunion de Niamey du 20 janvier 2015, notamment l'établissement du siège de la Force multinationale mixte (FMM) et la mise en place d'un réseau de communication sécurisé pour les forces de sécurité opérant à l'intérieur et autour du Bassin du Lac Tchad;

8. **Reconnaît** les efforts en cours du Gouvernement de la République fédérale du Nigéria dans la lutte contre la menace posée par Boko Haram, et **se félicite** de l'annonce faite par le Nigéria, dans le cadre des efforts collectifs visant à éradiquer cette menace, de contribuer des ressources pour renforcer la FMM;

9. **Rend hommage** au Gouvernement de la République du Tchad pour le déploiement de troupes au nord du Cameroun, en vue d'aider les soldats camerounais dans le combat contre le groupe terroriste Boko Haram, démontrant encore une fois l'engagement et la contribution exemplaire du Tchad à la promotion de la paix et de la sécurité sur le continent, comme l'attestent les immenses sacrifices consentis par ce pays pour la libération du nord du Mali de l'emprise des groupes terroristes et criminels;

10. **Se félicite** des mesures prises par la Commission, en réponse à la requête formulée par les États membres de la CBLT et le Bénin, lors de la réunion de Niamey du 20 janvier 2015, de tenir à Yaoundé, au Cameroun, du 5 au 7 février 2015, une réunion d'experts, avec la participation de toutes les parties prenantes concernées, aux fins de finaliser le concept d'opération (CONOPS) de la FMM et d'autres documents connexes, notamment les arrangements relatifs au commandement et au contrôle, le concept de soutien, les règles d'engagement, ainsi que les directives sur la protection des civils, tenant dûment compte de la Politique de diligence voulue des Nations unies en matière de droits de l'homme. Le Conseil **prend note** de la demande faite par la réunion ministérielle

de Niamey de disposer d'un CONOPS flexible, de nature à faciliter, dans le cadre de la FMM, la mise à disposition du soutien nécessaire à des arrangements bilatéraux ou trilatéraux;

11. **Décide,** en appui aux efforts des États membres de la CBLT et au Bénin, et en réponse à la requête de la réunion ministérielle de Niamey et sur la base des recommandations de la Présidente de la Commission telles que contenues aux paragraphes 19 à 22 de son rapport, d'autoriser le déploiement de la FMM pour une période initiale de douze (12) mois renouvelable et un effectif pouvant aller jusqu'à 7 500 personnels militaires et autres, avec le mandat suivant:

(i) créer un environnement sûr et sécurisé dans les régions affectées par les activités de Boko Haram et d'autres groupes terroristes, afin de réduire considérablement la violence contre les civils et d'autres exactions, y compris la violence sexuelle et sexiste, conformément au droit international, notamment le droit international humanitaire et la Politique de diligence voulue des Nations unies en matière de droits de l'homme;

(ii) faciliter la mise en œuvre, par les États membres de la CBLT et le Bénin, de programmes d'ensemble de stabilisation dans les régions affectées, y compris la pleine restauration de l'autorité de l'État et le retour des personnes déplacées internes et des réfugiés; et

(iii) faciliter, dans la limite de ses capacités, les opérations humanitaires et l'acheminement de l'aide aux populations affectées;

12. **Décide en outre** que, dans le cadre du mandat énoncé ci-dessus, les contingents de la FMM rempliront notamment les tâches suivantes:

(i) entreprendre des opérations militaires visant à empêcher l'expansion des activités de Boko Haram et d'autres groupes terroristes, ainsi qu'à éradiquer leur présence;

(ii) faciliter la coordination opérationnelle entre les pays concernés dans la lutte contre Boko Haram et d'autres groupes terroristes, y compris sur la base de renseignements recueillis par les États membres de la CBLT et le Bénin et/ou mis à disposition par des partenaires extérieurs;

(iii) encourager et faciliter la conduite de patrouilles simultanées/ coordonnées/ conjointes et d'autres types d'opérations aux frontières des pays affectés;

(iv) prévenir le transfert d'armes et de munitions et tout autre type de soutien à Boko Haram et à d'autres groupes terroristes;

(v) assurer, dans des camps la limite de ses capacités, la protection des civils sous menace imminente, de personnes déplacées et de réfugiés, des travailleurs humanitaires et d'autres personnels civils;

(vi) rechercher activement et libérer toutes les personnes enlevées, y compris les jeunes filles enlevées à Chibok, dans l'État de Borno, en avril 2014;

(vii) entreprendre des opérations psychologiques efficaces pour encourager les défections au sein de Boko Haram et d'autres groupes terroristes;

(viii) soutenir, le cas échéant, la phase initiale de mise en œuvre de stratégies de désarmement, de démobilisation et de réinsertion de combattants désengagés dans leurs communautés;

(ix) contribuer au renforcement et à l'institutionnalisation de la coordination civilo-militaire, y compris la mise à disposition, sur demande, d'escortes pour les convois humanitaires;

(x) soutenir les efforts régionaux visant à arrêter et à traduire en justice tous les auteurs de crimes de guerre et de crimes contre l'humanité; et

(xi) assurer la protection du personnel, des installations et des équipements de la FMM;

13. **Se félicite de l'adoption** par le Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies, le 19 janvier 2015, d'une déclaration présidentielle, appelant notamment à un soutien accru de la communauté internationale en vue du renforcement des capacités opérationnelles de la FMM. Le Conseil **exhorte** le Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies, dès réception du présent communiqué et du CONOPS visé au paragraphe 10 ci-dessus, à adopter d'urgence une résolution qui, conformément à la requête formulée par les États membres de la CBLT et le Bénin, lors de leur réunion d'Abuja du 13 octobre 2014: (i) approuve le déploiement de la FMM, (ii) autorise la création par le Secrétaire général d'un Fonds d'affectation spéciale pour assurer la pérennité des opérations de la FMM, et (iii) appelle à la mobilisation d'un appui international en faveur de la FMM et d'autres efforts connexes contre Boko Haram et d'autres groupes terroristes;

14. **Félicite** les partenaires bilatéraux et multilatéraux qui apportent une assistance aux pays de la région, les **encourage** à renforcer leur soutien, et **appelle** les États membres de l'UA et les autres membres de la communauté internationale à fournir tout l'appui nécessaire aux efforts des États membres de la CBLT et du Bénin, y compris une assistance financière et logistique, des équipements, ainsi qu'un appui renforcé en matière de partage du renseignement en temps réel, afin de faciliter l'opérationnalisation rapide et intégrale de la FMM. Le Conseil **demande** à la Commission d'organiser, d'ici à la mi-mars 2015 et avec le soutien des Nations unies, une conférence de donateurs pour faciliter la mobilisation des ressources nécessaires;

15. **Lance un appel** pour la fourniture d'une assistance humanitaire d'urgence aux populations affectées et aux pays accueillant des réfugiés nigérians. Le Conseil **invite** le sous-Comité du Comité des Représentants permanents sur les Réfugiés, les Personnes déplacées et les Affaires humanitaires à entreprendre d'urgence une visite dans la région, afin d'évaluer la situation et de faire des

recommandations sur les voies et moyens les meilleurs pour mobiliser, au niveau du continent, un appui additionnel en complément à celui déjà fourni par les partenaires internationaux;

16. **Souligne** qu'au-delà des opérations sécuritaires et militaires contre Boko Haram et d'autres groupes terroristes, dont la nécessité n'a point besoin d'être soulignée, il importe que les efforts nationaux, régionaux et internationaux portent également sur l'amélioration des moyens de subsistance des populations, l'éducation et la création d'emplois, ainsi que sur la protection des droits de l'homme, y compris des femmes et des jeunes filles, afin de lutter contre l'aliénation et la marginalisation, qui créent des conditions favorables à l'émergence de l'extrémisme violent. À cet égard, le Conseil **exprime son soutien** à la Stratégie de la CBLT de lutter contre Boko Haram et d'autres groupes terroristes, et **appelle** à la mobilisation de l'appui financier et technique nécessaire à la mise en œuvre de cette Stratégie;

17. **Rappelle** la décision du 22 mai 2014 du Comité des sanctions contre Al-Qaeda du Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies d'inscrire Boko Haram sur la liste des individus et entités faisant l'objet de sanctions financières ciblées, et **souligne l'importance** d'une telle décision en tant qu'outil efficace pour contribuer à l'élimination de ce groupe terroriste et au tarissement des sources de financement de ses activités criminelles et terroristes;

18. **Invite** à la Présidente de la Commission de transmettre le présent communiqué au Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies et aux autres partenaires de l'UA, pour requérir leur soutien et leur action, en tant que de besoin;

19. **Invite en outre** à la Présidente de la Commission d'informer le Conseil, une fois par mois, de la mise en œuvre du présent communiqué;

20. **Décide** de rester activement saisi de la question.

Enclosure II

[Language: French]

UNION AFRICAINE

الاتحاد الأفريقي

UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Abéba, Éthiopie, B. P. : 3243 Tél. : (251-11) 822 5513 Télécopie : (251-11) 5519 321
Courriel: situationroom@africa-union.org

CONSEIL DE PAIX ET DE SÉCURITÉ
489ÈME RÉUNION
3 MARS 2015
ADDIS ABÉBA, ÉTHIOPIE

PSC/PR/COMM.(CDLXXXIX)
REV.1

COMMUNIQUÉ

COMMUNIQUÉ

Le Conseil de paix et de sécurité de l'Union africaine (UA), en sa 489ème réunion, tenue le 3 mars 2015, a adopté la décision qui suit sur les efforts régionaux et internationaux déployés dans le cadre de la lutte contre le groupe terroriste Boko Haram et sur la voie à suivre:

Le Conseil,

1. **Prend note** du rapport de la Présidente de la Commission sur la mise en œuvre du communiqué PSC/AHG/COMM.2(CDLXXXIV) sur le groupe terroriste Boko Haram et sur les autres efforts internationaux y relatifs [PSC/PR/2(CDLXXXIX)], ainsi que des remarques introductives faites par le Commissaire à la Paix et à la Sécurité. Le Conseil **prend également note** des déclarations faites par les représentants du Cameroun, du Niger, du Nigéria et du Tchad, en leur qualité de membres de la Commission du Bassin du Lac Tchad (CBLT), ainsi que par ceux de l'Union européenne (UE) et des Nations unies et les représentants des États-Unis d'Amérique, de la France et du Royaume-Uni, en tant que membres permanents du Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies ;

2. **Rappelle** ses prises de positions antérieures sur la menace posée par le groupe terroriste Boko Haram et les efforts visant à y faire face, y compris les communiqués PSC/PR/COMM.(CDLXIX) et PSC/AHG/COMM.(CDLXXXIV) adoptés lors de ses 469ème et 484ème réunions, tenues respectivement le 25 novembre 2014 et le 29 janvier 2015 ;

3. **Rappelle en outre** les pouvoirs dévolus au Conseil de paix et de sécurité conformément à l'article 7 du Protocole relatif à la création du Conseil, notamment le pouvoir d'autoriser, conjointement avec la Présidente de la Commission, l'organisation et le déploiement d'opérations de soutien à la paix et d'élaborer les directives générales relatives à la conduite de ces missions, y compris leurs mandats, et de procéder à la révision périodique desdites directives, ainsi que les dispositions de l'article 16 du Protocole affirmant que l'Union a la responsabilité principale pour la promotion de la paix, de la sécurité et de la stabilité en Afrique ;

4. **Réitère la ferme condamnation par l'UA** de tous les actes de terrorisme commis sur le continent, quels qu'en soient les auteurs, le lieu et les motivations. Le Conseil **souligne encore une fois** la détermination de l'UA à débarrasser l'Afrique du fléau du terrorisme et de l'extrémisme violent, qu'aucune circonstance ne saurait justifier ;

5. **Condamne fermement** les atrocités perpétrées par le groupe terroriste Boko Haram. Le Conseil **note avec une profonde préoccupation** la poursuite par Boko Haram de ses attaques au Nigéria et au Cameroun, ainsi que l'extension de ses activités à d'autres pays de la région, comme en témoignent les récentes attaques perpétrées au Niger et au Tchad, causant davantage de pertes en vies humaines, de déplacements de populations et de destructions de biens et d'infrastructures. Le Conseil **souligne** que le groupe terroriste Boko Haram constitue une menace non seulement pour le Nigéria et les pays voisins, mais aussi pour l'ensemble du continent africain et, comme telle, appelle une action africaine collective, conformément aux dispositions pertinentes de la Politique africaine commune de défense et de sécurité, telle que convenue dans la Déclaration solennelle adoptée lors de la 2ème session extraordinaire de la Conférence de l'Union tenue à Syrte, en Libye, du 27 au 28 février 2004, et à celles du Pacte de non-agression et de défense commune de l'UA,

adopté par la 4ème session ordinaire de la Conférence de l'Union, tenue à Abuja, au Nigéria, du 30 au 31 janvier 2005 [Assembly/AU/Dec.71(IV)] ;

6. **Renouvelle l'entière solidarité de l'UA** avec les Gouvernements et les peuples du Nigéria, du Cameroun, du Niger et du Tchad, et **exprime ses condoléances** aux familles des victimes des attaques terroristes de Boko Haram, ainsi que sa sympathie à tous les blessés ;

7. **Félicite, une fois de plus,** les États membres de la CBLT et le Bénin pour leur engagement constant et leurs efforts soutenus visant à apporter une réponse régionale coordonnée et efficace à la menace posée par le groupe terroriste Boko Haram. Le Conseil **réitère son appréciation** au Tchad pour la rapidité avec laquelle il a prêté son concours à la lutte contre Boko Haram, **rend hommage** aux soldats camerounais, nigérians, nigériens et tchadiens qui sont tombés sur le champ d'honneur, **présente** les condoléances de l'UA à leurs familles, et **souhaite** prompt rétablissement à tous les blessés ;

8. **Se félicite** des récents succès enregistrés sur le terrain, avec la reprise, au cours du mois de février 2015, de plusieurs localités par les forces armées des pays de la région, y compris Gamboru Ngala, Mongunu, Baga et Dikwa, dans l'État de Borno (Nigéria), ainsi que l'opération menée dans la forêt de Sambisa (État de Borno) et dans d'autres zones où le groupe terroriste Boko Haram est actif ;

9. **Se félicite** des mesures de suivi prises par la Commission, en application des dispositions pertinentes du communiqué PSC/AHG/COMM.2(CDLXXXIV), en particulier la réunion d'experts tenue à Yaoundé, au Cameroun, du 5 au 7 février 2015, pour finaliser le Concept stratégique d'opérations (CONOPS) pour la Force multinationale mixte (FMM) et la réunion de planification qui a eu lieu à N'Djamena, au Tchad, du 23 au 27 février 2015, pour élaborer le CONOPS du niveau opératif de la FMM ;

10. **Approuve** le CONOPS convenu lors de la réunion d'experts de Yaoundé, en vue de faciliter la mise en œuvre efficace du mandat et des tâches de la FMM, tels que définis aux paragraphes 11 (i, ii & iii) et 12 du communiqué PSC/AHG/COMM.2(CDLXXXIV). À cet égard, le Conseil **note** que le CONOPS prévoit ce qui suit:

(i) les contingents de la FMM opèrent librement dans la Zone d'opération telle que définie, étant entendu que cette Zone peut être élargie par les États membres de la CBLT et le Bénin, à la demande du Commandant de la FMM ;

(ii) la coordination entre les différents acteurs concernés est assurée par: (a) le Groupe de soutien et de suivi agissant, avec la participation de partenaires internationaux, comme un organe consultatif, en appui à la mise en œuvre de la Stratégie de la CBLT contre Boko Haram ; et (b) le Mécanisme conjoint de coordination (MCC), qui constitue un forum politique composé des Ministres compétents des États membres de la CBLT et du Bénin et chargé, sous la direction du Représentant politique pour la FMM, d'harmoniser les efforts de l'UA, des États membres de la CBLT et du Bénin et ceux des partenaires ;

(iii) le commandement et le contrôle est assuré par: (a) le Représentant politique pour la FMM, qui est nommé par les États membres de la CBLT et le Bénin, en consultation avec l'UA; et

(b) le Commandant de la FMM, désigné sur une base tournante par les pays contributeurs de troupes, qui exerce le commandement sur les forces mises à la disposition de la FMM ;

(iv) le Secrétariat de la CBLT agit en tant que Quartier général (QG) du niveau stratégique pour la FMM, en coordination étroite avec la Commission de l'UA ;

(v) le QG opérationnel de la FMM est établi à N'Djamena. Il est armé par du personnel provenant des États membres de la CBLT et du Bénin et comprend, en tant que de besoin, des officiers de liaison provenant des partenaires bilatéraux et internationaux concernés ;

(vi) les États membres de la CBLT et le Bénin, soutenus par l'UA, d'autres organisations régionales et les partenaires, apportent le soutien nécessaire à la FMM par le biais de l'Équipe de soutien de Mission (ESM) déployée au QG de la FMM, alors que la Commission de l'UA et les États membres de la CBLT et le Bénin établissent une Cellule stratégique responsable de la coordination et de la gestion de tout appui supplémentaire à la FMM ;

(vii) la FMM comprend un nombre limité de personnels civils et de police assurant des fonctions de liaison et de conseil auprès du Commandant de la FMM, ainsi qu'auprès d'autres parties prenantes concernées, afin de contribuer à la promotion d'une étroite coordination civilo-militaire et de faciliter la stabilisation rapide de la situation sur le terrain ; et

(viii) en application des dispositions pertinentes du communiqué PSC/AHG/COMM.2 (CDLXXXIV), toutes les opérations de la FMM sont conduites en stricte conformité avec le droit international humanitaire, y compris la Politique de diligence voulue des Nations unies en matière de droits de l'homme ;

11. **Demande** aux États membres de la CBLT et au Bénin de prendre les dispositions nécessaires pour procéder à la nomination officielle du Représentant politique et du Commandant de la FMM, comme prévu par le CONOPS, et de notifier officiellement ces nominations à la Commission de l'UA ;

12. **Demande en outre** à la Commission de prendre toutes les dispositions nécessaires pour aider à rendre la FMM pleinement opérationnelle, conformément aux dispositions pertinentes du CONOPS, y compris l'activation du QG stratégique, la désignation d'officiers de liaison au sein du QG opérationnel de la FMM à N'Djamena et la mise en place de la Cellule stratégique, conformément au paragraphe 10 (iv, v et vi) ci-dessus, ainsi que d'établir une Équipe dédiée de soutien de l'UA (ESUA), disposant du personnel et de l'expertise nécessaire, sous la direction d'un Coordonnateur de haut niveau, pour faciliter la mise à disposition d'un appui efficace et coordonné à la FMM. À cet égard, le Conseil **demande** à la Commission de conclure un Protocole d'accord avec le Secrétariat de la CBLT, énonçant clairement les responsabilités et rôles respectifs de la Commission de l'UA et du Secrétariat de la CBLT dans la mise en œuvre du CONOPS, conformément aux communiqués pertinents du Conseil ;

13. **Demande** au Secrétariat de la CBLT de soumettre à la Commission des rapports mensuels sur la mise en œuvre du mandat de la FMM, tel que défini dans le communiqué PSC/AHG/COMM.2 (CDLXXXIV), pour permettre à la Commission de faire des points de situation réguliers au Conseil, conformément aux exigences de comptes rendus stipulés au paragraphe 19 du communiqué

PSC/AHG/ COMM.2(CDLXXXIV), ainsi qu'au Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies, tel que cet organe pourrait le demander dans la résolution qui entérinerait le déploiement de la FMM ;

14. **Note** que, lors de la réunion d'experts de Yaoundé, et compte tenu des exigences opérationnelles sur le terrain, les États membres de la CBLT et le Bénin se sont engagés à fournir jusqu'à 8 700 personnels militaires et autres. Le Conseil **relève en outre** la nécessité de mobiliser des ressources adéquates sous la forme de facilitateurs et de multiplicateurs de force, pour permettre la neutralisation effective du groupe terroriste Boko Haram par la FMM, et ce conformément à son mandat. En conséquence, et sur la base des recommandations formulées dans le rapport de la Présidente de la Commission, le Conseil **autorise** une augmentation de l'effectif initial de la FMM de 7 500 à 10 000 personnels militaires et autres à fournir par les États membres de la CBLT et le Bénin, en stricte conformité avec les exigences contenues dans le CONOPS du niveau opératif ;

15. **Prend note avec satisfaction** de l'élaboration, par la réunion d'experts de N'Djamena, du CONOPS du niveau opératif, y compris la délimitation des secteurs opérationnels, la structure du QG de la FMM, l'emplacement des QG de secteurs, la séquence des opérations à mener, l'élaboration des modes d'action et la composition détaillée des capacités annoncées, ainsi que celle de documents supplémentaires, tels que le Plan de mise en œuvre du soutien à la Mission, les Règles d'engagement, les Procédures opérationnelles permanentes pour le traitement des détenus et les Directives sur la protection des civils ;

16. **Demande** aux États membres de la CBLT et au Bénin, avec le soutien de la Commission, d'organiser dans les meilleurs délais une réunion des Ministres de la Défense, précédée d'une réunion d'experts, aux fins de valider le CONOPS du niveau opératif et les autres documents connexes élaborés à Ndjamena ;

17. **Se félicite** de la tenue, à Yaoundé, le 16 février 2015, de la session extraordinaire de la Conférence des chefs d'État et de Gouvernement du Conseil de paix et de sécurité de la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique centrale (COPAX). Le Conseil **note avec satisfaction** les décisions prises à cette occasion, en particulier la mobilisation, au profit du Cameroun et du Tchad, d'une aide financière s'élevant à 50 milliards de francs CFA, ainsi que d'un appui logistique. Le Conseil **souligne** que cette assistance est un témoignage supplémentaire de l'attachement des dirigeants de la CEEAC à l'esprit de solidarité panafricaine ;

18. **Se félicite en outre** de la décision de la session extraordinaire du COPAX de promouvoir une étroite coopération entre la CEEAC et la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO), y compris à travers la tenue d'un Sommet conjoint pour élaborer une stratégie commune de lutte contre Boko Haram, ainsi que d'entreprendre des consultations avec le Nigéria. À cet égard, le Conseil **note avec satisfaction** les visites entreprises par les Présidents de la République du Congo et de la Guinée équatoriale au Nigéria, au Ghana et au Tchad, les 24 et 25 février 2015. Le Conseil **demande** à la Commission d'appuyer, en tant que de besoin, la coordination entre la CEDEAO et la CEEAC ;

19. **Rappelle** l'adoption par le Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies, le 19 janvier 2015, d'une déclaration présidentielle appelant, entre autres, à un appui international accru pour renforcer la capacité opérationnelle de la FMM, et **félicite** le Conseil de sécurité pour sa préoccupation,

continue, ainsi que pour son soutien aux pays affectés et l'expression de sa solidarité à leur endroit, comme l'illustre l'adoption de communiqués de presse les 2, 5 et 13 février 2015 ;

20. **Exhorte** le Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies, à la suite de l'approbation du CONOPS stratégique de la FMM, tel qu'indiqué au paragraphe 10 ci-dessus, à adopter de toute urgence, en vertu du Chapitre VII de la Charte des Nations unies, une résolution qui : (i) entérine le déploiement de la FMM ; (ii) rend possible la mise à disposition d'un soutien durable, flexible et prévisible au profit de la FMM, y compris à travers un mécanisme de soutien innovant, en s'inspirant des enseignements tirés d'expériences passées et en cours dans le cadre d'opérations conduites par l'UA, gardant à l'esprit que l'appui des Nations unies à l'UA sur les questions relatives au maintien de la paix et de la sécurité internationales est partie intégrante de la sécurité collective telle que prévue dans la Charte des Nations unies ; et (iii) appelle à la mobilisation, sur une base volontaire, d'un appui bilatéral et multilatéral additionnel à la FMM et à d'autres efforts connexes, y compris des projets à impact rapide, la réhabilitation des communautés et zones affectées, le redressement rapide, le développement socio-économique et la consolidation de la paix ;

21. **Convient** de saisir l'opportunité de sa 9ème réunion consultative annuelle avec les membres du Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies, à Addis Abéba, le 12 mars 2015, pour interagir avec eux sur la nécessité et l'urgence que revêtent l'adoption d'une résolution entérinant le déploiement de la FMM et la mise en place des mécanismes de soutien nécessaires. Le Conseil **convient en outre** de poursuivre cet effort à travers une interaction avec les représentants de tous les membres du Conseil de sécurité à Addis Abéba. Le Conseil **demande** à la Commission de poursuivre et d'intensifier ses efforts visant à mobiliser le soutien nécessaire auprès des acteurs internationaux concernés ;

22. **Félicite, une fois de plus,** les partenaires bilatéraux et multilatéraux qui soutiennent les pays de la région et les **encourage** à renforcer leur appui, et **en appelle** aux États membres de l'UA et à d'autres membres de la communauté internationale à fournir tout l'appui nécessaire à la FMM, y compris une assistance financière et logistique, des équipements, ainsi qu'un soutien renforcé et en temps réel dans le domaine du renseignement, en vue de faciliter l'opérationnalisation intégrale et diligente de la FMM. Le Conseil **demande** à la Commission d'accélérer ses consultations avec l'UE en vue de la mobilisation d'un soutien financier à travers la Facilité pour la paix en Afrique. Le Conseil **prend note** des préparatifs entrepris par la Commission en vue de l'organisation, en avril 2015, avec le soutien des Nations unies, de la Conférence de donateurs initialement prévue à la mi-mars 2015, et **l'encourage** à prendre toutes les dispositions nécessaires en vue du succès de cette Conférence ;

23. **Lance un appel** en vue de la fourniture urgente d'une assistance humanitaire aux populations affectées et aux pays accueillant des réfugiés nigérians. Le Conseil **se réjouit** de la perspective d'une visite dans la région, dans les meilleurs délais, du sous-Comité du Comité des Représentants permanents chargé des Réfugiés, des Personnes déplacées et des Affaires humanitaires, afin d'évaluer la situation et de faire des recommandations sur les voies et moyens les meilleurs pour la mobilisation, au niveau du continent, d'un appui supplémentaire pour compléter l'assistance fournie par les partenaires internationaux ;

24. **Souligne, une fois de plus,** la nécessité, en plus des opérations militaires et sécuritaires requises contre Boko Haram et d'autres groupes terroristes, d'efforts nationaux, régionaux et internationaux soutenus visant à améliorer les moyens de subsistance des communautés locales, à promouvoir l'éducation et la création d'emplois, ainsi qu'à protéger les droits de l'homme, y compris ceux des femmes et des filles, et à promouvoir la justice et la réconciliation. À cet égard, le Conseil **appelle** à la mobilisation de l'appui financier et technique nécessaire en faveur des pays de la région ;

25. **Prie** la Présidente de la Commission de transmettre officiellement le présent communiqué et le Concept stratégique d'opération de la FMM au Secrétaire général des Nations unies et, à travers lui, au Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies, ainsi qu'aux autres partenaires concernés, pour leur information et action, en tant que de besoin ;

26. **Décide** de rester activement saisi de la question.

United Nations S/2015/199

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 March 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 19 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The People's Republic of China held the presidency of the Security Council for the month of February 2015. An assessment of the work of the Council has been prepared under my supervision and in consultation with the other members of the Council (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **LIU Jieyi**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 19 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of China (February 2015)

Introduction

Under the presidency of China, in February 2015, the Security Council held 35 public meetings and informal consultations, adopted 7 resolutions and agreed on 2 presidential statements and 15 press statements.

Africa

Burundi

On 18 February, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2015/6) on Burundi. The Council welcomed the significant progress made by Burundi since the adoption of the Arusha Agreement in 2000, notably in the restoration of security and stability in the country, but noted that there remained challenges to overcome to ensure that the significant progress was not reversed, especially in the context of the 2015 elections. The Council welcomed the deployment on 1 January 2015 of the United Nations Electoral Observation Mission in Burundi (MENUB), and emphasized the need for the United Nations system and the international community, including the international financial institutions and Burundi's development partners, to maintain their support for peace consolidation and long-term development in Burundi.

Central African Republic

On 26 February, the Security Council heard briefings under "Other matters" from the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous, and the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Kyung-wha Kang, on the work of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and the humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic, respectively. Mr. Ladsous briefed the Council on the Secretary-General's proposal to increase the number of uniformed personnel in MINUSCA. Ms. Kang briefed the Council on her recent field mission to the Central African Republic, where the humanitarian situation remained dire. She called for more international support and assistance for humanitarian relief, while stressing the importance of restoring peace and security across the country. Council members expressed grave concern over the general situation in the country and voiced their strong support for MINUSCA for the full implementation of its mandate.

Guinea-Bissau

On 5 February, the Security Council held a briefing and closed consultations on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau, Miguel

Trovoada, and the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Antonio de Patriota, briefed the Council on the situation in Guinea-Bissau. Representatives of Guinea-Bissau, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries participated and made statements. Mr. Trovoada said that the new Government of Guinea-Bissau had worked hard to implement its national priorities. He suggested that the Council endorse the ECOWAS decision to extend the mandate of the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau beyond 31 December 2014 for a period of six months. Given the indication by ECOWAS that it had encountered difficulties with respect to its ability to continue shouldering the financial burden of the mission by itself, support from other partners was needed. He also reported that UNIOGBIS had played an important role in assisting the authorities in Guinea-Bissau in promoting inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation and in combating impunity, drug trafficking and transnational organized crime. Mr. Patriota underlined that the country would require strong support from the United Nations, especially the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, to coordinate and focus international support on the Government's priorities.

During the closed consultations following the briefing, Council members commended the Government of Guinea Bissau for the strides that it had made towards sustainable peace, voiced their support for the ECOWAS Mission and welcomed the recommendation of the Secretary-General to extend the mandate of UNIOGBIS for a period of 12 months, until 29 February 2016.

On 18 February, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2203 (2015), extending the mandate of UNIOGBIS for 12 months.

Mali

On 6 February, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2015/5) in which it urged the Government of Mali and the relevant Malian parties to resume without delay the inter-Malian negotiation process in Algiers, and called on them to negotiate seriously and in good faith towards a comprehensive and inclusive peace agreement, while respecting the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Malian State. The Council also expressed its full support to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), reiterated its strongest condemnation of attacks against MINUSMA and emphasized that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and MINUSMA should play a leading role, in conjunction with the international community, to support and oversee the implementation of a future comprehensive and inclusive peace agreement signed by the Malian parties.

Libya

On 18 February, the Security Council held a briefing and closed consultations on the situation in Libya. The Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Bernardino León. Mr. León condemned in the strongest terms the horrific and brutal acts committed by terrorists in Libya in recent days and weeks and called for an effective strategy to combat the growing threats posed by terrorist groups. He welcomed the new round of political dialogue being held in

Ghadames and called for the next meeting to be held soon to finalize the formation of a government of national unity and security arrangements.

During the closed consultations that followed that meeting, Council members condemned the brutal killing of 21 Egyptian citizens in Libya and expressed condolences to the Egyptian Government and its people. Council members called for the terrorist threat in Libya to be addressed and urged all parties in Libya to continue their dialogue and engagement towards a political resolution of the Libyan crisis. Some members of the Council were cautious about lifting the arms embargo imposed on the Libyan Government and called on the Sanctions Committee to find a solution, and some members emphasized the importance of listening to the concerns of countries in the region.

Peace and security in Africa

On 10 February, the Security Council was briefed under "Other matters" by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, on his visit to Burkina Faso, Ghana and Togo. Mr. Feltman said that he had discussed preparations for the three countries' general elections in 2015 and 2016 with the three presidents and relevant stakeholders, and reaffirmed that the United Nations was committed to providing technical assistance for the elections. Mr. Feltman highlighted the most recent situation in Burkina Faso and stressed that the United Nations would continue to support the transitional authorities in the country. Following the briefing, some members of the Council emphasized the importance of holding free, fair and peaceful elections in the West African countries. They also called upon the international community to help the African countries to address the root causes of their instability.

Somalia

On 4 February, the Security Council held a briefing and closed consultations on the situation in Somalia. The Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), Nicholas Kay, as well as the African Union Special Representative for Somalia and Head of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), Ambassador Maman Sidikou. Mr. Kay said that while 2014 had seen important progress in the campaign against Al-Shabaab, the State formation process and the establishment of some key institutions in Somalia, more progress was needed and that 2015 must be the year of federalism and delivery. The United Nations and other international partners would remain united and committed to peace, security and development in Somalia. Mr. Sidikou said that AMISOM and the Somalia National Army had launched two successful offensives in 2014, resulting in the recovery of 16 towns. They would continue to degrade the capabilities of Al-Shabaab in 2015.

During the closed consultations that followed that meeting, Council members called for the international community to continue to help the Federal Government of Somalia to advance the political process, eradicate the threat of Al-Shabaab, improve the humanitarian situation and promote peacebuilding and sustained development.

On 5 February, the President of the Council issued a press statement (SC/11769) on Somalia. The members of the Council encouraged greater efforts

from all of Somalia's political leadership to work together to quickly establish an inclusive and representative government. The members underscored their determination to continue to support all international efforts aimed at ending the threat posed by Al-Shabaab and creating a conducive atmosphere for peacebuilding and sustainable development in Somalia. They also recalled their significant support to the people and the Federal Government of Somalia, in a sustained and integrated approach.

On 10 February, the President of the Council issued a press statement (SC/11773) on Somalia. The members of the Council welcomed the approval of the Cabinet list issued by the Federal Parliament of Somalia on 9 February. They stressed the need for the Federal Government to accelerate delivery of the milestones of its "Vision 2016". The members stressed the importance of political unity, inclusivity and stability of the Federal Government in Somalia, in order to make swift progress on delivery for the people of Somalia.

On 20 February, the President of the Council issued a press statement (SC/11791) on Somalia. The members of the Council strongly condemned the attack on 20 February on the Central Hotel in Mogadishu perpetrated by Al-Shabaab, which caused the death and injury of many innocent Somalis, including government officials and Members of Parliament as well as staff at the hotel. They expressed their deep sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims, many of whom were gathered for Friday prayers, as well as to the people and Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia. The members reiterated their support to all actors working towards more peace and stability in Somalia, including both UNSOM and AMISOM.

Somalia/Eritrea

On 26 February, the Security Council held closed consultations and was briefed by the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea, Ambassador Rafael Darío Ramírez Carreño, Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on the work of the Committee. The Chair reported on the informal consultations held by the Sanctions Committee on 13 February 2015 as well as the priorities of the work of the Monitoring Group. Council members expressed support for the work of the Committee and its Monitoring Group and called for full implementation of the sanctions measures mandated by relevant Security Council resolutions.

Sudan/South Sudan

On 6 February, the Security Council held closed consultations and was briefed by the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan, Ambassador Rafael Darío Ramírez Carreño, Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on the work of the Committee. Ambassador Ramírez reported to the Council on the Committee's discussion on the final report submitted by its Panel of Experts (see S/2015/31) as well as on the scheduled activities of the Committee for the next reporting period. Council members expressed support for the work of the Chair of the Committee and its Panel of Experts and called for increased cooperation between the Government of the Sudan and the Committee as well as its Panel of Experts.

On 12 February, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2200 (2015) extending the mandate of the Panel of Experts of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan until 12 March 2016.

United Nations Interim Security Forces for Abyei

On 10 February, the Security Council was briefed in consultations of the whole by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous, on the work of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). Mr. Ladsous indicated that no substantive progress had been made during the reporting period regarding the implementation of the 20 June 2011 Agreement, and that mechanisms such as the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee, the Joint Border Monitoring and Verification Mechanism and the Joint Political and Security Mechanism continued to be at a standstill. UNISFA had recorded several criminal activities committed against Abyei communities and United Nations Mine Action Service personnel, which resulted in loss of life, injuries and property loss and damage. The Secretary-General, in his report to the Council (S/2015/77), recommended that the mandate of UNISFA be extended for another four months. Council members expressed their concerns over the stalled efforts by the parties to resolve the issue of Abyei, the public administration and the rule of law vacuum as well as the growing security risk arising from community conflict and criminal activities, which could further exacerbate the worrisome security and humanitarian situation in Abyei. They called on the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan to swiftly revitalize the work of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee without precondition, and expressed their objection to any unilateral action that might aggravate intercommunal relations. Members of the Council also voiced their appreciation and strong support for UNISFA in the active implementation of its mandate.

On 26 February, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2205 (2015) extending the mandate of UNISFA until 15 July 2015.

United Nations Mission in South Sudan

On 24 February, the Security Council held a briefing followed by closed consultations on the work of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), during which the Council members were briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ivan Simonovic. The Permanent Representative of South Sudan to the United Nations participated in the open briefing under rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedures of the Council. Mr. Ladous pointed out that the security situation in South Sudan remained disturbing, with numerous recorded and confirmed violations of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities, which was a direct illustration of the parties' continued lack of political will to take the negotiations seriously and make the necessary compromises at the peace talks in Addis Ababa. He said there was an urgent need to reinforce the mediation efforts as well as to impose consequences on the parties. Mr. Simonovic briefed the Council on his latest field mission to South Sudan, where the number of displaced persons and refugees continued to grow and where thousands more civilians had died and further humanitarian law and human rights violations had been committed by both sides. He stressed that it was of the utmost

importance that the Council remain seized of the question of accountability. Council members expressed support to the mediation efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and concern over the alarming security and humanitarian situation in South Sudan, and urged both parties to immediately cease violence and participate in peace talks in good faith. Some members mentioned the urgent necessity for the Council to apply pressure to the warring parties, so that they would reach a final agreement by the 5 March deadline as set by IGAD. One member circulated to the Council a draft resolution on establishing a targeted sanctions regime on South Sudan.

Middle East

Lebanon

On 4 February, the Security Council discussed under "Other matters" the situation in Lebanon. Following the meeting, the President of the Council issued a press statement (SC/11766) condemning in the strongest terms the killing of a Spanish member of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which occurred in the context of exchanges of fire along the Blue Line on 28 January 2015. The members of the Council expressed their deepest sympathy to the family of the fallen peacekeeper and to the Government of Spain. The members looked forward to the immediate completion of a full and comprehensive investigation by UNIFIL to determine the facts and circumstances of the incident.

Syrian Arab Republic

On 6 February, the Security Council held closed consultations and was briefed by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Angela Kane, on the implementation of resolution 2118 (2013). Ms. Kane said that further progress had been made in the implementation of the resolution, with 1 out of 12 remaining chemical weapons production facilities already destroyed and the destruction of 2 others under way, and 97.8 per cent of all declared chemicals destroyed. Concerning the initial declaration of the Syrian Arab Republic and subsequent amendments, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons' (OPCW) Declaration Assessment Team paid its seventh visit to the country. The Executive Council of OPCW held meetings to discuss the third report of the organization's fact-finding mission on the allegations of the use of toxic chemicals as weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic and adopted a decision. The Syrian Arab Republic also provided OPCW with information regarding allegations of the use of chlorine as a weapon by non-State actors in the country.

Members of the Council exchanged views on the implementation of resolution 2118 (2013). Some members recognized the progress made so far and called for further cooperation between the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and OPCW. They also emphasized the importance of seeking a political solution through dialogue among the Syrian parties. The reports of the OPCW fact-finding mission were also discussed during the consultations, with some members expressing concern about the conclusions of the reports and calling for the Council to take appropriate actions, while another member questioned the conclusions as well as the methodologies upon which the conclusions had been drawn.

On 6 February, the Council was briefed under "Other matters" by Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, on the first inter-Syrian consultative meeting, held in Moscow from 26 to 29 January, facilitated by Russia. Mr. Churkin said that this was the first time that representatives of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and various opposition groups and civil society had sat at the same table. The participants discussed the way forward to end violence in the Syrian Arab Republic and achieve a comprehensive political solution, and agreed on the 11-point Moscow principles. The meeting was well received by its participants and it was agreed that another meeting, facilitated by the Russian Federation, would be arranged in the near future. Following the briefing, some members of the Council emphasized the importance of a political solution to the Syrian crisis. They also welcomed the progress achieved at the Moscow consultative meeting and expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the Russian Federation to organize the meeting.

On 17 February, the Council held closed consultations and was briefed by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, on the recent developments in the political solution to the crisis. Mr. de Mistura reported on his efforts to promote his "freeze" initiative and warned about the escalation of fighting on the ground, in particular in the north of Aleppo, rural Damascus, Deir ez-Zor and Hasakeh. Emphasizing that the Syrian crisis could not be won by military means, he called on all Syrian parties to respond positively to the "freeze" initiative. He informed the Council that during his recent visit to the Syrian Arab Republic, the Government had expressed its willingness to suspend all aerial attacks and artillery shelling throughout the city of Aleppo for six weeks and to implement the "freeze" initiative in the Salahhadin district of Aleppo. Mr. de Mistura said that he would pay another visit to the Syrian Arab Republic to assess conditions for a freeze. Commending the efforts of the Russian Federation and Egypt to facilitate dialogues between the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the opposition groups as well as coordination among the opposition groups, he expressed his hope that those efforts could help to pave the way towards an initiative that brings all parties together under United Nations auspices. Members of the Council unanimously emphasized the importance of seeking a political resolution to the Syrian crisis and commended the efforts of Mr. de Mistura in that regard. Many members welcomed the "freeze" initiative as well as the response from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to the initiative, and expressed their hope that the initiative could come into effect quickly. They also expressed their appreciation to the Russian Federation and Egypt for their efforts. Some members maintained a cautious attitude towards the "freeze" initiative and the proposal of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, and emphasized that owing to the offensive taken by the Government in the north of Aleppo, the situation on the ground should be further assessed.

On 26 February, the Council held an open meeting and was briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Kyung-Wha Kang, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and the Syrian refugee crisis. Ms. Kang told the Council that despite the efforts of all relevant parties to carry out humanitarian actions in the Syrian Arab Republic, the situation continued to deteriorate. She criticized all parties to the Syrian conflict in their continued military confrontation, which had resulted in

deaths, injuries and displacement of civilians as well as destruction of many civilian facilities such as residential buildings, hospitals, schools and other public infrastructure. She accused the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) for denying aid in Raqqa and Deir ez-Zor. She also pointed to the arbitrary removal by government security personnel of medical supplies from humanitarian aid. She called on the Council to do everything in its power to hold parties accountable and ensure that aid was delivered to people in need. Referring to the efforts of Mr. de Mistura to push for a "freeze" in Aleppo, she expressed the readiness of humanitarian agencies to step up the scale of humanitarian assistance in that city. She also called on all donors to attend the pledging conference in Kuwait and provide funds to the United Nations. Mr. Guterres referred to the more than 3.8 million registered refugees in countries neighbouring the Syrian Arab Republic and said that with depleted resources, deteriorating living conditions and overstretched host communities, the refugee crisis was approaching a dangerous turning point. He emphasized the need to pay greater attention to the conditions of those refugees under 18, in particular over 100,000 refugee children born in exile. He also called upon European and Gulf States to provide further assistance to Syrian refugees.

Representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon and Turkey addressed the Council. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic blamed terrorist groups for the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in that country and called for greater efforts to tackle terrorism. He also emphasized the importance of adhering to the guiding principles for the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system. Representatives of Lebanon and Turkey reported on their efforts to receive Syrian refugees and called on the international community to provide assistance to countries neighbouring the Syrian Arab Republic on the basis of the burden-sharing principle. Members of the Council made statements. Consensus was reached around seeking a political solution to the Syrian crisis and supporting the mediation of Special Envoy de Mistura. However, different views were expressed about the next steps. Some members called for pragmatic actions by the Council to ensure the full implementation of relevant resolutions, while others emphasized the importance of consent of host countries and respect for their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Yemen

On 6 February, the Security Council held consultations of the whole on Yemen under the item "Any other business". At the end of the meeting, the President of the Council read press elements on behalf of members of the Council, expressing grave concern at the announcement by the Houthis that they would break off talks, dissolve parliament and take over all of Yemen's government institutions. The President went on to call, in the strongest terms, for all parties, in particular the Houthis, to abide by the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative, the National Dialogue Conference outcome documents and the Peace and Partnership Agreement, which provide for a Yemeni-led democratic transition. Council members reaffirmed their full support for and commitment to the work of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen, Jamal Benomar, in support of the Yemeni transition process.

On 12 February, the Council held a briefing and closed consultations on the situation in Yemen. *The Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, and his* Special Adviser on Yemen, Jamal Benomar, briefed the Council on the recent developments in Yemen. The Secretary-General said that the international community must do

everything possible to help Yemen step back from the brink and get the political process back on track. He urged all parties in Yemen to engage in negotiations and abide by the common framework as set forth in the implementation mechanism of the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative, the outcome documents of the National Dialogue Conference and the Peace and National Partnership Agreement. Mr. Benomar expressed regret at the unilateral action taken by Ansarallah on 6 February, stressing that Yemen was at a crossroads. He reported on the mediation efforts he had taken and reaffirmed the commitment of the United Nations to Yemen. Representatives of Yemen and Qatar also made statements to the Council.

During the closed consultations that followed that meeting, Council members expressed grave concerns about the situation in Yemen. Some members urged the Houthis to engage in good faith in the United Nations-brokered negotiations, to normalize the security situation in the capital and other provinces, to relinquish government and security institutions and to refrain from further unilateral actions. Council members reaffirmed their support for, and commitment to, the efforts of Mr. Benomar and stressed the importance of close coordination between the United Nations and international partners, including the Gulf Cooperation Council.

On 15 February, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2201 (2015) on Yemen, reflecting the above-mentioned points, and decided to remain actively seized of the matter.

On 25 February, the President of the Council issued a press statement (SC/11798) on Yemen reiterating the main elements contained in resolution 2201 (2015). The members of the Council called for all parties in Yemen, including the Houthis, to commit to resolving their differences through dialogue and consultation. The members of the Council welcomed the fact that that the legitimate President of Yemen, Abdo Rabbo Mansour Hadi, is no longer under house arrest as well as his intention to engage in good faith in the United Nations-brokered negotiations, and urged all parties to accelerate these negotiations.

Iraq

On 17 February, the Security Council held a briefing and closed consultations on the situation in Iraq. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), Nickolay Mladenov, briefed the Council on the situation in Iraq as well as the work of UNAMI. Mr. Mladenov presented the second report of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 2169 (2014) (S/2015/82) and the fifth report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 4 of resolution 2017 (2013) (S/2015/70) on the issue of missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and property to the Council. He said that despite a year-long security crisis and amid ongoing humanitarian concerns in Iraq, there was cause for "paranoid optimism". Iraq's most pressing goal remained to win back territory taken by ISIL. While ISIL continued to commit grave crimes against men, women and children, the country's political, community and religious leaders had coalesced to save their country from terror. In addition, Iraq faced a number of other political, humanitarian and financial challenges. He called on the Iraqi Government to move swiftly on the full implementation of the ministerial programme and the political agreement. Ambassador Mohamed Ali Al-hakim, Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations, also made a statement in the Council. Describing measures taken by the Iraqi Government to deal with the

challenges, he emphasized that ISIL still controlled large swathes of territory and had committed mass atrocities against the Iraqi people. He called on the international community, in particular countries in the region, to further step up counter-terrorism efforts and enhance border control.

In the closed consultations, members of the Council reiterated their support to the Iraqi Government in its efforts to push forward an inclusive political process and security, economic and social reforms; to achieve national reconciliation; and to further improve its relations with neighbouring countries, in particular Kuwait. Members of the Council called for a more coordinated and integrated approach by the international community in supporting Iraq. Members also emphasized the importance of fully implementing resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015) in order to effectively combat ISIL and other terrorist organizations.

Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 18 February, the Security Council held a briefing and closed consultations on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, briefed the Council. He said that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict threatened to escalate further, which could have damaging consequences for both parties and for the two-State solution. The Secretary-General had reiterated his call to both sides to refrain from taking unilateral steps or actions that might further aggravate current divisions. The situation in Gaza had become increasingly worrisome six months after the conflict; the combination of the failure to rectify the persistent governance and security issues and the slow pace of reconstruction had created an increasingly toxic environment.

During the closed consultations, the Council members called for the resumption of negotiations between the parties, while some members suggested improving the international platform to push forward the negotiations collectively. Council members expressed serious concern and many condemned the continued settlement plan announced by Israel, calling it contrary to international law and a major obstacle to the peace talks, and asked for an immediate and comprehensive halt. Many Council members also stressed the need for improvements to the situation on the ground and called upon the international community to honour their commitment to the reconstruction of Gaza as soon as possible.

Europe

United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

On 6 February, the Security Council held a public meeting on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIK, Farid Zarif. Mr. Zarif reported the formation of a new government in Kosovo in December 2014 followed by mass protests, and called for "measured" discussions of the issues that sparked the protests so that the new government could make progress on its stated objectives. He called on leaders in Belgrade and Pristina to engage seriously in ongoing dialogue and to make the hard choices required for regional stability. He also urged leaders in Pristina to make further progress in justice, reconciliation, economic and other areas. The First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign

Affairs of Serbia, Ivica Dačić, and Hashim Thaçi of Kosovo both reaffirmed their commitment to the European Union-facilitated dialogue for a sustainable solution.

Members of the Council welcomed the continuation of dialogue on technical matters between Belgrade and Pristina, and expressed their expectation that relations would be normalized and the high-level dialogue between the two sides to resolve outstanding issues resumed. Some members reiterated the continued applicability of resolution 1244 (1999) and supported the role of UNMIK in reducing tensions and promoting cooperation. Some members welcomed the role of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo and the Kosovo Force in maintaining a safe and secure environment in Kosovo.

Letter from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2014/264)

On 17 February, the President of the Security Council issued a press statement (SC/11784) on Debaltseve. The members of the Council expressed grave concern at the continued fighting in and around Debaltseve, Ukraine, which had resulted in numerous civilian casualties. The members regretted that, despite the announcement of a ceasefire on 15 February, violence had continued in recent days in some parts of eastern Ukraine. The Council called on all parties to immediately cease hostilities, abide by commitments agreed in Minsk, including facilitating access for the Organization for Security and Cooperation (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission to monitor and verify compliance with the Minsk Agreements, and treat detained individuals humanely.

On 17 February, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2202 (2015) endorsing the "Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements", adopted on 12 February 2015 in Minsk; welcoming the Declaration by the leaders of the Russian Federation, Ukraine, France and Germany; and calling on all parties to fully implement the "Package of Measures". Some members of the Council made statements after the vote. Many expressed their firm conviction that the resolution of the situation in eastern Ukraine could only be achieved through a peaceful settlement of the current crisis. Some members expressed concern about ongoing intense fighting and called for a comprehensive ceasefire immediately, and stressed the need to ensure access for the monitors. Some members said the Minsk Agreements provided a genuine opportunity to end the tragedy and that all parties should fully implement the Agreements and avoid taking unilateral measures that would contradict the spirit of the Agreements.

Letter from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2014/136)

On 27 February, the Security Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and Chair of the Trilateral Contact Group, Heidi Tagliavini, and the Head of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, Ertugrul Apakan. Ms. Tagliavini said that the situation in eastern Ukraine was at the turning point between further progress towards peace or escalation of conflict. There had been a significant reduction in hostilities in Ukraine and the beginning of the withdrawal of heavy equipment in accordance with the Minsk accords. However, those developments were only the beginning of a process. A sustainable ceasefire and continued de-escalation,

including the withdrawal of heavy military equipment, were indispensable to any further progress.

Mr. Apakan underlined that the Mission was working for the full implementation of the "Package of Measures", which was an integrated whole. He reported to the Council that there had been some indications that both sides were taking steps to comply with their responsibilities under the Minsk package. OSCE had observed the movement of heavy weapons away from the line of contact in several instances, but there was a clear distinction between this activity and being able to verify that those weapons were indeed withdrawn, and safely and securely stored. In order to facilitate, monitor and verify the withdrawal of heavy weapons from a defined security zone, OSCE needed improved and sufficient baseline information, and the same requirement applied to the monitoring of the withdrawal of foreign armed formations and mercenaries. Also, the Mission needed enhanced technological capacity and corresponding expert staff. He added that the Mission would need close cooperation with the United Nations.

After the briefing, the members of the Council held an informal interactive dialogue with Ms. Tagliavini and Mr. Apakan.

Thematic and other issues

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

On 1 February, the President of the Security Council issued a press statement (SC/11762) on the murder of a Japanese citizen, Kenji Goto, by ISIL. The members of the Council strongly condemned this heinous and cowardly murder and underlined the need to bring the perpetrators of these reprehensible acts of terrorism to justice. The members of the Council stressed again that ISIL must be defeated and that the intolerance, violence and hatred it espouses must be stamped out. The members demanded the immediate, safe and unconditional release of all those who are kept hostage by ISIL, Al-Nusra Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida. The members further recalled that ISIL is included on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List and is thus subject to the asset freeze and arms embargo contained in resolution 2161 (2014). The Council members reaffirmed the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation and wherever, whenever and by whomsoever they are committed.

On 2 February, the President of the Council issued a press statement (SC/11763) on Boko Haram, condemning in the strongest terms the attacks in Nigeria and against Chadian troops in Cameroon. The Council members condemned in the strongest terms the continued escalation of attacks perpetrated by Boko Haram terrorists on 1 February in Maiduguri, Borno State, as well as the increasing attacks in the Lake Chad Basin region, including against the Chadian army contingent deployed to fight Boko Haram in Cameroon at the request and with the collaboration of the Cameroonian authorities, on 29 and 30 January near the border town of Fotokol, in which 4 Chadian soldiers were killed and 12 others injured.

On 3 February, the President of the Council issued a press statement (SC/11764) on the murder of Jordanian air force pilot Muath Al-Kasasbeh. The members of the Council strongly condemned this heinous and cowardly murder and underlined the need to bring the perpetrators of this reprehensible act of terrorism to justice. The members stressed again that ISIL must be defeated and that the intolerance, violence and hatred it espouses must be stamped out. The members of the Council demanded the immediate, safe and unconditional release of all those who are kept hostage by ISIL, Al-Nusra Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida. The members of the Council further recalled that ISIL is included on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List and is thus subject to the asset freeze and arms embargo contained in resolution 2161 (2014). The members reaffirmed the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation and wherever, whenever and by whomsoever they are committed.

On 5 February, the President of the Council issued a press statement (SC/11768) on Boko Haram attacks against Chadian troops and civilians along the border between Cameroon and Nigeria, including against the Chadian army contingent deployed to fight Boko Haram in Cameroon and Nigeria, on 3 February, in which 13 Chadian soldiers were killed and 21 others injured, and against the civilian population and Cameroonian troops, in which at least 3 Cameroonian soldiers and a sizeable number of civilians were killed, in Fotokol on 4 February.

On 12 February, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2199 (2015) on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, which further strengthened international measures to constrain the financing of ISIL, also known as Daesh, Al-Nusra Front and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida, including new measures on the trade in oil, oil products and antiquities from the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq. After the adoption of resolution 2199 (2015), some members of the Council took the floor to reaffirm their commitment to the fight against terrorism.

On 13 February, the Council issued a press statement on Boko Haram attacks in Cameroon, Chad and Niger (SC/11780). The Council condemned in the strongest terms the attacks perpetrated by Boko Haram terrorists on 13 February in Ngouboua, Chad, against civilians, as well as the 8 February attack in Kerawa, Cameroon, and the attacks of 6-8 February in Diffa, the Niger. The Council reiterated its determination to combat all forms of terrorism, in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations.

On 15 February, the President of the Council issued a press statement on the murder of 21 Egyptians (SC/11782). The members of the Council strongly condemned the heinous and cowardly apparent murder in Libya of 21 Egyptian Coptic Christians by an affiliate of ISIL. This crime once again demonstrated the brutality of ISIL, which is responsible for thousands of crimes and abuses against people from all faiths, ethnicities and nationalities, and without regard to any basic value of humanity. The members of the Council expressed their deep sympathy and condolences to the family of the victims, to the Government of Egypt as well as to the families of all victims of ISIL. The members reiterated their strong

condemnation of the persecution of individuals and entire communities on the basis of their religion or belief.

On 20 February, the President of the Council issued a press statement on Libya (SC/11792). The members of the Council strongly condemned the bomb attack in al-Qubbah, Libya, on 20 February, claimed by an affiliate of ISIL, also known as Daesh, resulting in dozens of deaths and injuries. They expressed their deep sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims of this heinous act and wished a speedy recovery to those injured. The members of the Council stressed again that ISIL must be defeated and that the intolerance, violence and hatred it espouses must be stamped out.

On 25 February, the President of the Council issued a press statement (SC/11799) on abduction of Syrian Christians by ISIL. The members of the Council strongly condemned the abduction of more than 100 Assyrians by ISIL, also known as Daesh, on 23 February 2015 in the north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic as well as destruction and desecration of Christian and other religious sites. Such crimes once again demonstrated the brutality of ISIL, which is responsible for thousands of crimes and abuses against people from all faiths, ethnicities and nationalities and without regard to any basic value of humanity.

On 27 February, the President of the Council issued a press statement (SC/11804) on destruction by ISIL of religious and cultural artifacts in Mosul. The members of the Council strongly condemned the ongoing barbaric terrorist acts in Iraq committed by ISIL, also known as Daesh, including the abduction of 100 Sunni tribesmen from outside Tikrit on 25 February; the immolation of 45 Iraqis in Baghdad on 17 February; ongoing daily attacks targeting civilians in Baghdad; and the deliberate destruction of irreplaceable religious and cultural artifacts housed in the Mosul Museum and burning of thousands of books and rare manuscripts from the Mosul Library. The members reiterated their condemnation of the destruction of cultural heritage in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, particularly by ISIL.

Maintenance of international peace and security

On 23 February, on the initiative of China, occupying the presidency of the Security Council for February, the Council held an open debate on the subject "Maintenance of international peace and security: reflect on history, reaffirm the strong commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations". The meeting was chaired by the Foreign Minister of China, Wang Yi. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, together with several other foreign ministers and senior officials from capitals, attended the meeting. Eighty-two representatives of Member States and regional organizations made statements on the subject during the meeting.

In his remarks, the Secretary-General emphasized the importance of upholding the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter. He said that commitment to the prevention of armed conflict through the peaceful settlement of disputes and the protection of human rights lay at the heart of the Charter. The Secretary-General pointed out that serious violations of human rights would weaken sovereignty. He emphasized that the less sovereignty was viewed as a wall or a shield, the better the prospects would be for protecting people and solving shared problems.

In their statements, Member States reaffirmed their commitment to the Charter's principles, particularly those in support of collective efforts for the maintenance of international peace and security and the primary role of the Council in that regard, as well as the need for early action to ensure the prevention and peaceful settlement of conflicts. The Chinese Foreign Minister stressed the importance of establishing a new type of international relations with win-win cooperation as the core and, together with many other Council members, called for the Council to adopt conflict prevention measures and restore peace and reconstruction in a prompt manner. They emphasized that all countries should strengthen awareness on cooperation and resolve the complex challenges through negotiations and cooperation. They also pointed to the vital role of the principles of sovereignty, equality, mutual respect for choice of development path and social system, adherence to international law and the norms of international relations and refraining from interference into others' internal affairs. Some members called for early and preventive measures to be taken by the Council to respond to early warning signs of conflict. Regional and thematic issues such as Ukraine, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Middle East peace process, the situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and reform of the Security Council were also raised during the open debate.

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe)

On 24 February, the Security Council heard a briefing by the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia and Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Ivica Dačić. Mr. Dačić briefed the Council on the Serbian OSCE Chair's priorities and the organization's partnership with the United Nations. He emphasized the need to find ways to rebuild trust and confidence and re-engage in joint efforts to strengthen security across the whole OSCE region. OSCE had been continuously trying to find a political solution to the Ukraine crisis, and he called on all relevant parties to adhere to the "Package of Measures" agreed upon in Minsk on 12 February.

The Council members welcomed the efforts of OSCE to maintain regional peace and stability. They called on all parties concerned to fully implement Council resolution 2202 (2015) as well as the "Package of Measures" agreed upon in Minsk, and work towards a durable peace and stability in Ukraine. Some members emphasized the importance of full access for the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to all the areas to enable it to supervise the implementation of the "Package of Measures".

Non-proliferation (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

On 26 February, the Security Council was briefed in closed consultations by the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), Ambassador Román Oyarzun, Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations. Ambassador Oyarzun briefed the Council on the work of the Committee during the period from 10 November 2014 to 25 February 2015, including its ongoing consideration of the 2015 final report of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1874 (2009) (see S/2015/131), the conclusion of the update of the Committee's guidelines and a letter requesting more information regarding the proposal of the International Committee of the Red Cross for

assistance to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and discussed the Panel's monitoring of the implementation of sanctions provisions. The Chair also noted that during the reporting period the Committee had received two additional implementation reports from Member States and that the number of States that had reported on implementation now stood at 98.

Some Council members expressed their concern that there were no indications that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was willing to abandon its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes, and urged the Democratic People's Republic to fulfil its obligations without delay. Other Council members affirmed that dialogue and consultation was the only way to resolve the nuclear issue in the Korean Peninsula, and that all the parties concerned should exercise restraint, avoid confrontation, de-escalate the tensions in the Korean Peninsula and create favourable conditions for the resumption the Six-Party Talks.

Several Council members called on the Committee to take timely and appropriate action on the recommendations contained in the final report. They expressed concern over relevant activities of the designated Democratic People's Republic of Korea entity Ocean Maritime Management Company, which has renamed most of the associated vessels, and called for the robust implementation by all Member States of the provisions of the Council resolutions against the designated entity. Other Council members stated that the report needed serious examination by their capitals and stressed that any follow-up action should be taken by consensus by the Committee with prudence, so as to avoid having a negative impact on the situation in the Korean Peninsula. The view was also expressed that strengthening sanctions in the name of clarifying information should be avoided. On the recommendation concerning the exemptions for embargoes as long as the items are confirmed to be for solely humanitarian purposes, some Council members saw the impracticality of this recommendation while others emphasized its merit and the need for the Committee to continually address this issue.